

Page 2

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A stepping motor comprising:

a stator assembly;

a rotary shaft including a lead screw portion end and a plain portion end ~~which has a rotor magnet disposed concentrically thereon so as to face an inner circumference of the stator assembly,~~ the plain portion end including the stator assembly and the rotary shaft having both ends thereof rotatably supported by respective bearings;

a rotary magnet fixedly mounted on the plain portion end of the rotary shaft, and rotatably housed in the stator assembly;

a bracket attached to the stator assembly and having one bearing at one end thereof; and

a thrust mechanism disposed at one end of the rotary shaft ~~positioned toward the lead screw portion~~ opposite the stator assembly, the thrust mechanism ~~being structured such that~~ having a resilient member is provided in a recess formed at the one end of the rotary shaft ~~positioned toward the lead screw portion,~~ and a point-contact member is provided between the resilient member and one bearing of the respective bearings, the one bearing rotatably supporting ~~the one end of~~ the rotary shaft positioned toward the lead screw portion end, wherein the thrust force is given by the resilient member to the rotary shaft in an axial direction.

2. (Original) A stepping motor according to claim 1, wherein the resilient member is a coil spring, and the point-contact member is a spherical body made of steel.